

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 101857Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0059

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T LONDON 05444

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UK

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST UNLIKELY

REF: LONDON 4799 (NOTAL)

1. FCO ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY WEIR TOLD US APRIL 9 THAT FONSEC CALLAGHAN HAS AT LEAST SHELVED AND PERHAPS DROPPED IDEA HE HAD FOR A TRIP TO "TEST THE TEMPERATURE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THOUGH HE STILL WANTS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS SADAT'S SPEECH OF MARCH 29 AND VARIOUS UTTERANCES COMING FROM ISRAEL HAVE CLARIFIED THE VIEWS OF KEY PLAYERS INVOLVED.

2. IN ADDITION, THERE IS CURIOUSLY RETICENT AND MODERATE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY SOVIET UNION, AS WELL AS COMMENTS FROM SYRIA (SEE LONDON SEPTTEL) WHICH IMPLY MUCH GREATER READINESS TO SEE DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS RESUMED THAN BRITISH HAD ASSUMED. SOVIETS AND SYRIANS SEEM TO RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN GOING TO GENEVA WITHOUT A FURTHER SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

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3. INTERESTINGLY, WEIR COMMENTED, SUGGESTIONS THAT DIS-
ENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BE RESUMED ARE EMANATING FROM
ISRAEL, EGYPT, AND SYRIA RATHER THAN FROM WASHINGTON.
THIS SUGGESTS THAT USG MAY BE IN A STRONGER POSITION VIS-
A-VIS THOSE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD IT AGREE TO RESUME ITS
MEDIATION EFFORTS. BRITISH ARE KEEPING THEIR FINGERS
CROSSED.

4. FAHMY RECENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR ADAMS IN CAIRO THAT IF
EGYPT COULD NOT OBTAIN ENLARGED GENEVA CONFERENCE ALONG
LINES IT HAD SUGGESTED ARABS WOULD SCRUB GENEVA AND GO
BACK TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WEIR THINKS THIS IS MERE
"FAHMY TALK" AND BLUFF. HE THINKS THAT EGYPTIANS ARE
SERIOUS IN DESIRING UK AND FRENCH PARTICIPATION BUT ARE
ONLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS ON PARTICIPATION OF OTHER
NON-ALIGNED TO PLEASE SYRIANS AND OTHERS IN SYRIAN CAMP.
HE DOES NOT THINK SADAT WOULD ABANDON GENEVA WITHOUT
GIVING IT A SERIOUS TRY NO MATTER WHAT THE CONFERENCE'S
COMPOSITION.

RICHARDSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON05444
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0182
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750463/aaaacgbm.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 LONDON 4799
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALLAGHAN TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST UNLIKELY
TAGS: PFOR, XF, UK, (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006